

S.B. No. 1033

**AN ACT PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF LUNG CANCER.**

To improve early detection and diagnosis of lung cancer.

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**Keri Cappiello**  
**41 Fulling Mill Lane**  
**Ridgefield, CT**

Testimony

My mother-in-law, Randy Cappiello, passed away recently at age 56, one month after discovering she had lung cancer that had spread to the brain, bone and liver. Following her successful battle against breast cancer, Randy had adhered to her doctor's protocol and had received annual chest x-rays and tumor marker blood tests. We were all under the false impression that she was cancer free. Unfortunately, chest x-rays fail to reveal 85% of the early-stage cancers detected by the CT scans, according to the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program ("I-ELCAP"). She had been getting the wrong tests for 10 years!

Since early-stage lung cancer does not have any symptoms, lung cancers are rarely discovered until they have progressed to a late stage where they are almost untreatable. In contrast with the typical low cure rate, it is known that cancers found in the early stage are highly curable. According to research published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Oct 26, 2006, **CT screening finds over 85% of lung cancers in this early stage and those that are treated immediately have a 92% 10-year survival rate.**

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Lung cancer will kill more people this year than: breast, prostate, colon, liver and kidney cancer combined. According to the estimates just released by the American Cancer Society, there will be 213,000 new lung cancer cases in 2007 – this is an increase of 22% compared to 2006. **In Connecticut, it is estimated that there will be 2,720 new cases of lung cancer and 1,860 deaths in 2007.** The five-year survival rates are projected to drop from 15.3% in 2006 to 15% in 2007. While the death rates for most cancers has dropped from 1991 to 2003, for women with lung cancer, it has increased 10% over that time period.

Randy was a resident of Connecticut all her life. One of her last wishes was that the protocols for doctors be changed so that the high risk population has a better chance at early detection of lung cancer and potentially greater life expectancy. With Bill #1033, Connecticut now has the opportunity to lead the country in terms of supporting early detection of lung cancer. The conclusion of the recently published research from I-ELCAP is clear, "Annual spiral CT screening can detect lung cancer that is curable." It is time to change the protocols.